

• Appln. No. 60/230,142. A marked-up copy of the original paragraph is attached.

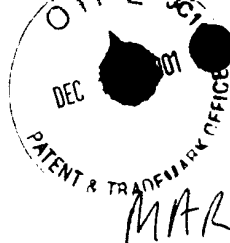
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## Interleaver Filters Employing Non-birefringent Elements

### Reference to Related Applications

[001] This application relies for priority on provisional application Ser. No. 60/221,573 filed July 28, 2000, and entitled "Design and Fabrication Interleaver Based on Birefringent Interferometers Utilizing Glass Elements" and provisional application Ser. No. 60/230,142 filed Sept. <sup>5</sup> 1, 2000, and entitled "Design and Fabrication Interleaver Filters Based on Birefringent Interferometers Utilizing Glass Elements".

### Field of the Invention

[002] This invention relates to systems and methods for filtering wavelength multiplexed optical signals and multiplexing or demultiplexing channels by interleaving.

### Background of the Invention

[003] Modern communication systems using optical fibers for dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) applications are being developed with constantly increasing wavelength densities, the channels being spaced apart in accordance with the standardized ITU grid. As the channel spacings are decreased for greater data density, they introduce the problem of achieving ever more precise filtering to maintain signal integrity. To relieve these constraints, those in the art have adopted interleaving